

Serenity Sentinel

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**SERENITY SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION
EXTENDS ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION
TO ITS MANY FRIENDS
WHO HAVE JOINED OUR GROWING
FAMILY OF
CHURCH AND CAMP BUILDERS**

EDITORIAL

By Richard P. Goodwin

THE LAW OF GIVING

In our daily acts and activities we encounter many experiences, both pleasant and distasteful. Little do we realize that these experiences are merely reflections of our own attitude of mind or rate of vibration.

The spiritual law of attraction is just and impartial, constantly revealing to us our present state of spiritual growth. Trials and tribulations of daily living are but effects of our unwillingness to make necessary changes within ourselves.

When we learn and apply the Law of Giving, we will be freed from the bondage of creation and find the peace that passeth all understanding. In practical application of the Law of Giving and Attracting we must first become aware of our thoughts and what they are doing to us. With this knowledge of the power of thought we begin to make greater effort to cultivate an attitude of complete freedom or givingness which permits the Divine power to flow through us unobstructed.

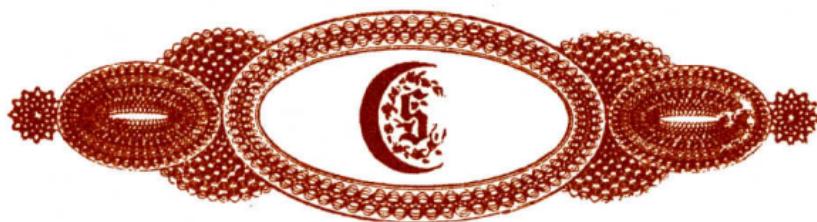
The greatest obstacle in our path of freedom is our unwillingness to try something which we believe is new to our experience, little realizing that we are governed by universal law and having choice have been using these laws all the time, usually in a negative or destructive way.

THE LAW OF GIVING IS THE JOY OF LIVING

Declaration of Principles, NSAC

**WE AFFIRM THAT COMMUNICATION
WITH THE SO-CALLED DEAD IS A
FACT, SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN BY
THE PHENOMENA OF SPIRITUALISM.**

Spirit communication has been in evidence in all ages of the world and is amply recorded in both sacred and profane literature of all ages. Orthodoxy has accepted these manifestations and has interpreted them in dogma and creed in terms of the supernatural. Spiritualism accepts and recognizes these manifestations and interprets them in the understanding and light of Natural Law.



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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Sentinel. All unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by self-addressed stamped return envelope. We cannot assume responsibility for their safety.

ANSWERS TO

Ever-Recurring Questions From the People

By Andrew Jackson Davis

IX. — Question: "Do you believe that there are no accidents in Nature? Is everything pre-determined, decreed, and over-ruled to occur just as and where it does? Some persons deny everything of the kind, while others insist that the events of earth, and even of individual life, result from the direct pleasure of God. What is your opinion?"

ANSWER: It is our present impression that the Universe is intrinsically, vitally, organically unchangeable and orderly throughout. The omnipotent attraction of the central Soul is irresistible, and unto it the humblest as well as the mightiest beings instinctively yield all power and praise. All ends are involved in all beginnings, and nothing hangs loose over the abyss of uncertainty. The minutest consummation of things is secured by the irrefragible logic of unchangeable laws. The sublime harmony of the universe is not jeopardized by the presence of unfriendly accidents or by chaotic possibilities. The attributes of the central Soul are illimitable. They sweep with omnipotent force through the stupendous machinery of this beautiful and harmonious system of Cause and Effect. And the unerring lines and the fixed courses of the interwoven series of mutual dependencies are sufficiently perfect to comprehend and accomplish the least with the greatest ends.

Therefore, although we may believe that slight

impulses and trifling contingencies are not decreed or pre-ordained, yet the spiritual philosopher cannot resist the intuition that every event, that each item of earth or life, is provided for in the workings of the all-comprehensive system. The most trivial circumstance ever thrown up by the ceaseless waves of Time, is not a stranger – is not an enemy – to the boundless Order, to the progressive development, of the noiselessly rolling universe. Christian and heathen alike intuitively believe in the all-lovingness, in the all-comprehensiveness, in the all-mightiness of the God of Nature. It is an affair of temperament and of country, whether this Divine Mind is worshipped as a Personality or as a Principle; and to the true believer in the immutability of Truth, the form which this worship assumes is of little moment, the only question being, whether the worshipper is emancipated from the horrible doctrine of the ancients, that a portion of mankind is doomed to endless burnings! With reference to the general question of our correspondent, we would , while protesting to the personification of a principle, quote the words of Akenside:

" From the wide complex
Of co-existent natures, there shall rise
One ORDER, all involving and entire;
For He, beholding in the sacred light
Of His essential Reason, all the shapes
Of swift Contingence, all successive ties
Of action propagated through the sum
Of possible existence —He, at once,
Down the long series of eventful time,
So fixed the dates of being, so disposed
To every living soul of every kind
The field of motion and the hour of rest,
That all conspired to His Supreme Design —
To UNIVERSAL GOOD."

Continued on page 29

All the Spiritualism of the Christian Bible

By Rev. E. W. Sprague

Communism Practiced

Verse 44: "And all that believed were together, and had all things common;"

Verse 45: "And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

If all of the three thousand converts sold their possessions and turned the receipts therefor over, it must have been a good day's work for the apostles who received it. Was the gospel free and without price in those days?

Acts, Chapter III., tells the story of the healing of a beggar who was born a cripple.

Hypnotism Used by Peter and John

Verse 4 says: "And Peter fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us."

Verse 7: "And he took him by the hand (evidently magnetizing him), and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

Verse 8: "And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple," etc.

Verse 16: Peter gives the spirit Jesus the credit of healing this poor cripple.

Magnetic and spiritual healing is wonderful. Through its application by Spiritualists it is healing thousands in every civilized country the world

over today. These Spiritualist healers' rooms in Detroit are crowded daily with people who believe in it, a large majority of whom are members of Christian churches.

Five Thousand More Converts Made

Acts, Chapter IV., Verse 4, says: "Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."

We are not told how many women converts there were.

There were five thousand more converts. They were doing a big business and a profitable one.

Communism; More of It

Verse 32: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common."

Verse 34: "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of things that were sold."

Verse 35: "And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according to his need."

Verses 36, 37: "And Joses, having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Gospel of Jesus Not Free

As every new convert sold all his possessions

Continued on page 21

FROM FIRE MIST TO MAN

Evolution Spiritually Interpreted

By Andrew Jackson Davis

I am impressed that Man was developed subsequent to minerals, vegetables, and animals by a focal concentration of all the elements, essences and influences which exist in Nature.

The Deity operates and creates according to unchangeable and impartial laws. Forasmuch as the generals of everything include innumerable particulars, it is agreeable to the highest reason to believe that God made provision for the minutest objects in the universal plan. And as the growing plant arrives at a period when Branches are unfolded, and at another when Buds burst forth, at another when Fruit is matured; so has Nature according to the unchangeable workings of Divine law arrived at a period when Minerals were unfolded, and at another when Vegetables burst forth, at another when Animals were developed, and yet at another period when all conditions, elements and essences conspired to the organization of Man.

It is just as reasonable to believe that God creates and shapes, like the potter, from the dust of the earth, each little twig, and bud, and acorn of the oak, and places them upon the trees, as to believe that he created by special and personal action the multifarious forms and human structures that breathe and move upon the surface of the earth.

But the reader may inquire - "If by perpetual

and harmonious development Nature has produced plants, brutes and man why do we not see these different organizations spontaneously springing up without a germ from the earth?"

The answer is, that Nature is a vast and powerful organization and that it was originally designed to unfold through countless series, degrees and groups of physical and sentient organizations, the material and spiritual constitution of man. Therefore, when Nature had arrived at the point where she could accomplish this portion of her mission through the law of procreation, it was no longer necessary nor possible that she should continue in the old path of specific formation.

It is good to know that there is an omnipotent principle permeating the Natural, Spiritual and Celestial departments of God's universal Temple -- a principle which unites atoms and planets into one stupendous System, which unfolds Spirits and Angels as immortal flowers.

Artificial Generation of Life

The conditions that were required for the development of Life have been investigated to some extent by physiologists and they have endeavored to show by known laws the true principles and process of gestation. But experiments that have been instituted have, as a general thing, failed to produce the phenomenon of gestation; and the conclusion has been generally adopted that this can not take place under any circumstances save through the ordinary instrumentalities. Experiments, however, in one or two instances have succeeded to a great extent that is to say, by a proper compound being placed in a favorable

position, and acted upon by electrical forces, life and a singular species of animal have been produced.

But experiments of this character cannot have any possible bearing upon the question under consideration; for if life and activity were the results of such experiments in innumerable instances, this would not lead to a proper solution of the question respecting the origin of life.

Chemistry will unfold the fact, that light when confined in a certain condition, and condensed, will produce water; and that water thus formed, subjected to the vertical influence of light, will produce by its internal motion and further condensation a gelatinous substance of the composition of the spirifer, the motion of which indicates animal life. This again being decomposed and subjected to evaporation, the precipitated particles which still remain will produce putrid matter similar to earth, which will produce the plants known as the fucoids.

Clairvoyant Experiment

I have performed many experiments through the aid of clairvoyance and ascertained the fact that man may combine matter so as to produce both vegetable and animal life.

Take a quantity of pulverized gypsum (chalk), which is understood to be entirely destitute of animal germs; boil it so that all possible animal life must become extinct; then place it in a glass jar, containing a pint of boiled water, about eight ounces of gypsum, and seal the jar hermetically. An iron rod, however, should be descended through the cork into themixtureand project into the air some eight or ten inches. Place this jar in a room of about 70 degrees temperature, and in some four weeks you will see clinging to the sides of the glass three or four species of moths. Now take the matter from the jar and boil it again; then place it as before, in the same temperature, and within six weeks,three different forms of crawling animalcula, very unlike the first will come from the same combination of water and gypsum.

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RICHARD P. GOODWIN, President

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SPIRITUALISM: The Religion of Self Culture

Becoming A Spiritualist

By H. Gordon Burroughs

It has been said by a teacher of the past to those who would be successful: "Make Perseverance a bosom friend; Experience, a wise counselor; Caution, an elder brother; and Hope, a guardian angel." Spiritualism teaches that the secret of success lies in seeking high and right ends, and in embracing every opportunity of attaining them, never forgetful of the Golden Rule in whatever station in life it may please Infinite Intelligence to place us. The basis of success lies in doing what we can do, well; in doing well, whatever we do; and in doing it unselfishly, without thought of reward or fame, for the love of doing -- at all times praying, ever hopeful. Because of the law of justice and right, whatever results may crown our effort will come because they have been earned, and not because they have been selfishly sought. Selfish effort in time usually brings failure.

As for this world's goods, it is the birthright of every individual to have all that belongs to him for his comfort, and this may be attained by applying the truths of Spiritualism in our lives.

Spiritualism also points the way to an even greater success: to love, to be loved and respected; to know of the beautiful things in nature, spending a little time with the birds, babes, trees, flowers,

and all the creation of Infinite Intelligence; to live so that we may know much of the life here and the life hereafter, where so many of our Loved Ones have gone. Thus on departing from this plane, we shall leave behind us a record of a rounded-out, useful life, taking our place in the spiritual plane of action where we shall have the opportunity of going on to further heights.

What is to be accomplished by the individual seeker of truth in applying in his daily life the knowledge herein set forth? The reply is that success will crown his every effort; that he will soon be living in harmony with all men, happily going forward in confidence, reaching that high state of consciousness in which the I becomes the master and continuing to progress in that other dimension of ever-present eternity when this experience on earth has been finished.

To summarize: Spiritualism teaches personal responsibility; that man is a soul, animated by spirit, occupying a body with a mind to serve him — not that he has a soul; that death is not cessation of life but a change of condition, a truth which removes the fear of death; that those who have passed over are not sleeping but are awake and conscious; that man, as a soul, will progress to the heights through the ages to come. It teaches further that the spark of divinity dwells within each individual; that the development of poise, receptivity, and sympathy, together with the manifestation of love and kindness in one's daily life, leads to true success; and that in the application of these truths in one's daily life, does Spiritualism become the religion of self-culture.

TO BE CONTINUED

MEDIUMSHIP EXPLAINED

What Is Mediumship?

By E. W. & M. H. Wallis

Telepathy and Sir W. Crookes

Sir Wm. Crookes, in his Presidential Address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, said: 'If telepathy takes place we have two physical facts -- the physical change in the brain of A, the suggestor, and the analogous change in the brain of B, the recipient of the suggestion. Between these two physical events there must exist a train of physical causes.' Sir William argued that the connecting series of intermediate causes can only occur through an intervening medium, and he claimed that "with every fresh advance of knowledge it is shown that ether vibrations have powers and attributes abundantly equal to any demand -- even to the transmission of thought."

Granting that such telepathic transference is scientifically demonstrated, it is assuredly a spiritual manifestation -- one embodied spirit communicating with another; and if embodied spirits have this power, why not the so-called disembodied also?

'Natural Laws' are not Intelligent Entities

Paul Tyner points out the important fact that 'Neither a universal ether, constant and prevading all space, nor a rare effluence, existing as an

attribute of living, sentient beings, will alone account for thought-transference, clairvoyance, psychometry, or hypnotism – to use many names for the one process of psychic perception. As has been shown, this perception depends, more than aught else, on that degree of rapport which we can only designate by the entirely inadequate term, "community of sensation." It is plain that these phenomena depend absolutely on both the universal ether, as a medium, and the emanation from sentient, living beings as a force, working upon that medium – as the painter works in colours or the sculptor in stone.' But, as neither 'natural laws' nor 'natural forces' can exercise volition or display purpose, and this 'community of sensation' can only be experienced by living, conscious and intelligent beings, thought-transference by means of the vibratory medium or ether is only possible between two such individuals.

A Vast Whispering Gallery

Dr. J.M. Peebles, the venerable 'spiritual pilgrim,' says: 'The universe is not dead. Every atom is afire with life. Inspiration is as eternal as the stars. Trances are in perfect harmony with psychic law. God is everywhere from sand to stars, to the suns that dot the immensities; and angels would speak as readily to God's living Americans as to His ancient Hebrews if the proper conditions were given them. Open the doors of your souls, O mortals, and invite the good angels in; invite your loved ones, peopling the higher spheres, to come with their olive-leaf messages of love and truth and wisdom. The

universe is one. Conscious spirit is infinite, and if, as science teaches, every undulating wave is its rhythmic motion impinges upon every other wave in the vast, all-embracing sea of universal life, who can set limits to the bounds of thought, or will, or spirit influence, either within or without the mortal body? Believed or not, this peerless universe is one grand whispering gallery, and we are surrounded, as the apostle taught, by a great "cloud of witnesses" - numberless multitudes who delight under proper conditions to converse with earth's foot-weary travellers, by impression, inspiration, premonition, and wisdom. Precious fact, proving the perpetuity of intelligence, of love, and of law, beyond death's portal!

TO BE CONTINUED



A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Designed to Confer Light upon Many
Interesting Spiritual Topics

A Catechism of Spiritual Philosophy

By W. J. Colville

CLAIRAUDIENCE, Continued from last issue

Q. If we wish to cultivate clairaudience, what is a good course to pursue?

A. One very good method is to select a particularly quiet place and time and put one's self in a calm, listening attitude; then in this silence many sounds may be distinctly heard which cannot be heard when noises are all about us.

Q. Are important spiritual messages often given clairaudiently?

A. They certainly are, and it is always well to make a record of anything we hear which is of an unusual character. Definite warnings are often conveyed in this way, and though it is never wise to accept any communications blindly, we should not hastily dismiss information which may prove of value, if we give it due consideration.

Q. From what sources do you think such tidings usually proceed?

A. Very generally from our immediate spirit friends, who are often called unseen helpers. We are all attended by spiritual friends and guardians interested in our welfare, even if we know it not: when we are specially sensitive in any direction we become consciously aware of the presence and guidance of these helpers.

Who are the Prophets and What is Prophecy?

Q. What do you understand by prophecy?

A. Prophecy is commonly regarded as the gift which enables one to peer into the future and foretell coming events, but it also has a much higher significance.

Q. What is that higher significance?

A. A deeper insight than the ordinary into the constitution of the universe, so that by means of added knowledge of universal law we may be able to live nobler and more intelligent lives.

Q. Are there prophets today?

A. Assuredly there are, but they are not always known or honored and the gift of prophecy is sometimes only imperfectly revealed.

EVER-RECURRING QUESTIONS, Continued

The Surface of the Moon

X. – Question: "Did you ever investigate the surface of the moon by the use of clairvoyant sight?"

ANSWER: The moon was the first heavenly object we remember to have seen by clairvoyance. It was made visible in this way, near the spring of 1845. Its appearance filled our soul with unutterable amazement. Forgetting for the moment, the earthly existence, we seemed to stand on the brink of an awful precipice, behind which was a boundless prairie of broken rocks. It looked like a sea of shattered strata, as if innumerable volcanoes had broken thousands of miles of solid rock into fragments of every imaginable shape. These rocky fragments were tumbled in one confused mass over the vast field behind. In front was the almost bottomless abyss – the fearfully deep precipice – with rivers of lava pouring from its ragged slopes. Not a drop of water, not a tree, not a shrub, was visible in any direction. Deep down the fearful chasm we saw volumes of black vapor issuing and ascending like storm-clouds, and there seemed to be showers of fiery or meteoric bodies, which appeared to form and fall incessantly over the abyss. There were desolation, and gloom, and destruction on every side. The vision was horrible – reminding one of the pit of darkness, or the hell of popular theology. But all at once we realized that we were the only visitor and spectator, and this thought had the effect to terminate our observations. Since, we have made many interesting and instructive excursions thither.

TO BE CONTINUED

CHRISTIAN BIBLE, Continued

and the apostles divided them with "all men as every man had need."

It looks as though these mediums were pretty well paid for their services; anyhow their needs were all well provided for.

If the three thousand converts made in one day and the five thousand another day sold all their possessions and turned all the money into the treasury of the twelve apostles, were they preaching the gospel, and preaching mediumship to prove its truth, "without money and without price"?

Peter and John Arrested

The apostles were making too many converts to please the Jewish priests and the Sadducees, so something must be done.

Verse 2: "Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead" (spirit return).

Acts IV., 3: "And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide."

Took them at night and put them in jail, just as they did mediums in New York recently. Priests and Sadducees did it.

Verse 4 tells of the five thousand converts mentioned heretofore.

TO BE CONTINUED



THOUGHTS ON LIFE

*Oft'times I ponder upon life
It's meaning there to find
I search to know the depths therein,
The heights a soul may climb.
I seek an answer known by God;
I ask in faith through prayer;
The question far too deep for words,
And yet, He finds it there.
The Spirit moves within me
To still my earnest call;
He speaks to me, a soothing voice,
Sweet peace engulfs my all.
Have you found life shallow?
Empty, fruitless, vain?
An endless task, a wilderness,
A desert without rain?
Then turn to God, He'll answer you
However worn or weak.
Your sorrow far too deep for words?
He hears before you speak.
Meditate upon your life,
It's meaning there to find;
And you shall know the depths therein,
The heights a soul may climb.*

by Dian Clair

**SERENITY SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION
CHURCH AND CAMP**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4th Friday	Seminar
3rd Tuesday	Men's Club
3rd Wednesday	Ladies Guild
April 11	Easter Sunrise Service and Ranch Breakfast Camp Serenity
April 20	Men's Club
April 21	Ladies Guild
April 23	Seminar
May 19	Ladies Guild
May 18	Men's Club
May 19	Ladies Guild
May 28	Seminar
June 15	Men's Club
June 16	Ladies Guild
June 25	Seminar

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